

educators. I am of the opinion that the School Acts should be consolidated and made much more simple and definite than they now are; that to the executive authority, whatever it is, should be allowed a less measure of discretion than it now possesses. I would say to the Legislature, "Make your laws as definite and fixed as possible, but be sure in doing so that you have the advice of men representing every educational interest and every educational work, both professional and lay. If consolidation is done by lawyers exclusively, as seems to be the rule, the School Act will remain what it now is, a source of constant uncertainty, and of expensive and annoying litigation. But when you have completed your laws, sever from political connection and party influence the execution of them, and let that supplementary legislation, which you cannot help leaving undone, be effected by a body of men whom you may call a Council of Public Instruction, who shall represent every educational interest, and thus those very interests of the people which are most concerned.

"Give to the Government of your confidence a veto power upon all the ordinances and regulations which are the outcome of this supplementary legislation; but let the originaive power remain with the Council, for whose erection, representative character and continuance you will secure legal provisions. Then appoint an officer, of the necessary ability and discretion, to carry into effect these laws of yours, and these ordinances and regulations of the Council. You will have no cause to fear his absolutism. He but puts into operation machinery which you, and the Council which you have created, have constructed. He will have no patronage and no originaive power of his own. But as the chief executive officer of the system, his opinion in the Coun-

cil of which he will be a member will be of great value, but not more than its merit deserves.

"And to secure your full acquaintance with what is done in this Council, one of yourselves should be a member of it, and also of your own Executive Council, let us say the Provincial Secretary. He, from his high position among you, will be able to influence the policy of the Education Council in conformity with your wishes. He will also be able to check any attempt at extravagant or obnoxious legislation on the part of the Education Council, by the assurance of the veto of the Government of which he is a member. He will be able to explain to you from time to time any proposed measures on the part of the Council which need your sanction; and, at the same time, he will be able to acquaint the Council authoritatively when it would be perfectly useless to bring any such matters before you. In this Council you may have a perfect confidence that it will act with discretion, and in conformity with the people's needs, since it will represent the education interests of the people, of every kind whatsoever; and will be amenable to public criticism, and accessible by deputation, petition and otherwise, to the wants or grievances of every one concerned. You need not fear that this Council will be a close corporation of interested educationists, since you may secure the presence in it, by appointment on the part of your Governor in Council, of men whose standing and repute will be a guarantee to the people that it is the interests of education and not of educationists which the Council has most at heart."

I will again briefly outline the scheme which I propose should be substituted in lieu of the present one the scheme to be embodied in an Act, which, previously to coming before